

## Chapter 9

# Using Bait, Lure, and Urine



If you find a dead animal, do not set traps there, you may catch non-target animals



**Content Standard** - *Students explain responsible use of lure, bait, and urine to attract furbearers to sets*

### Introduction

Effective use of bait, lure, and urine will increase your catch and help you avoid non-target animals. The more you learn about an animal and its habits, the better you will be at using lure, bait, and urine.



**Explain when and how to use bait, glandular lures, food lures, curiosity lures, and urine to attract specific furbearers**

Bait, lure, and urine can be used alone or in combinations to help you trap furbearers. Scents should match the interests of the animal you are trying to catch.

Baits are used to attract animals to your sets and make them stay longer. Your choice of bait and its placement is based on the furbearer's food source and eating habits. Baits can be chunks of meat and fish, or plant food such as corn, carrots, and apples. Meat and fish bait may be fresh, tainted, or liquid in form.

Bait must be used carefully to prevent catching non-target wildlife or domestic animals. Pay close attention to trapping regulations concerning bait. Uncovered flesh baits are attractive to hawks and owls, which hunt by sight. Lightly covered flesh baits work for furbearers because they have a keen sense of smell. Baits such as corn may attract a variety of non-target animals.

While it is unlikely any trapper's bait would reach the quantity presently restricted for deer hunters, trappers should be aware that Michigan does have restrictions on bait that attracts deer. *See the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for more details.*

Lures are used to attract animals to your sets from a distance. Lures are classified as gland, food, or curiosity attractants. Gland lures appeal to an



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Baits - Canned fish, apple, and carrot

Visual attractants, where legal, are sometimes used. Bobcats, for example, may be attracted to strips of cloth or pieces of metal fluttering in the breeze.

## Safety - Animal Welfare - Responsibility - Furbearer Conservation



animal's sexual attraction or territorial instincts. Food lures or scents appeal to their desire to eat. Curiosity lures appeal to a furbearer's instinct to investigate something unfamiliar.

Food lures are generally most effective in the early part of the trapping season. Gland lures become more important later in the season when the animals are looking for mates. Curiosity lures may work at any time in the season, especially when the animal is not hungry or looking for a mate.

Urine is often used for trapping fox and coyotes. Like dogs, fox and coyotes mark their territory by urinating on various objects. Urine triggers a territorial response that may encourage a coyote or fox to investigate your set.

Some trappers enjoy making their own lures and attractants. It is part of the challenge of becoming a successful trapper. Commercial lures work, but if a certain kind is used frequently animals may become wise to the scent and avoid it.

The use of bait, lure, and urine varies by time of year, location, and the type of furbearer you want to catch. The presence of non-target species or domestic animals will also affect your choice. The responsible use of bait, lure, and urine can make you more successful catching furbearers while avoiding problems with non-target animals. Remember, each non-target animal that comes to your set reduces your chances of catching the animal you want.

Refer to the Appendix C for the species you are trapping to help determine the best bait and lure to use.



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Urine and lures